

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 OIC-04 IO-14 AEC-11 OMB-01 DRC-01 H-03 NSC-07

SS-20 /151 W

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P R 051005Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0959

INFO SECDEF PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 06988

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR DATA: RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES

REF: (A) STATE 115532; (B) STATE 92126; (C) USNATO 3031;

(D) MBFR VIENNA 0023; (E)USNATO 3106

SUMMARY: WE PASSED U.S' DATE ON WARSAW PACT HELICOPTER AND NSWP SSM PERSONNEL TO FCO ON JUNE 4. FCO PROMISED EXPEDITIOUS RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST TO IDENTIFY AREAS OF AGREEMENT. IN GENERAL CONVERSATION WHICH FOLLOWED, FCO OFFICIALS INDICATED UK WILL NOT INSIST ON INTELLIGENCE EXPERTS CONFERENCE TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES. BUT UK CONTINUES HAVE PROBLEMS WITH DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES ISSUE AND WITH TACTICAL USE OF DATA. END SUMMARY.

1. AS WE HAD PREVIOUS APPOINTMENT FOR JUNE 4 WITH MC-LAREN OF FCO AND LEVER, HIS ASSISTANT FOR DATA PROBLEMS,

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WE DISCUSSED REF.A AND PROVIDED U.S. ESTIMATES REF. B

TO THEM FOR JOINT FCO/MOD RESPONSE. WE STRESSED URGENCY OF NEED TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES BEFORE JUNE 18. MCLAREN PROMISED EXPEDITIOUS CONSIDERATION OF OUR FIGURES ON PACT HELICOPTER AND NSW P SSM PERSONNEL. WE WILL PRESS FOR RESPONSE IF NO REPLY RECEIVED BY A.M. JUNE 7.

2. DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO MORE GENERAL ASPECTS OF DATA PROBLEM. WE NOTED UK CONTINUES TO BE OPPOSED TO GIVING AD HOC GROUP (AHG) AUTHORITY TO USE FIGURES IN NEGOTIATIONS (PARA 1 REF. C) AND ASKED FOR ANY SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT HELP EXPLAIN UK POSITION. MCLAREN MADE FOLLOWING POINTS IN RESPONSE:

(A) THE ORIGINAL NATO AGREED DATA PROVIDED TO AHG WAS PRODUCED "IN A HURRY" AND PROVED TO HAVE DISCREPANCIES WHICH SOVIETS HAVE ALREADY NOTED ONCE. BEFORE GIVING PACT OUR NEW FIGURES WE SHOULD BE ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT THEY WILL STAND UP TO ANY SCRUTINY. UK PROPOSED INTELLIGENCE CONFERENCE TO COME TO AGREED NUMBERS BUT THIS SUGGESTION MADE ONLY IN INTEREST OF EARLY RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES. UK WILL NOT INSIST ON A CONFERENCE OF EXPERTS AND RECOGNIZES THAT THERE ARE OTHER POSSIBLE WAYS TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM.

(B) UK WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HAVE NATO LOOK AT IMPLICATIONS OF NEW AGREED DATA FOR OUR SIDE AND TO GIVE AHG DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS BASED ON THESE IMPLICATIONS. IF NATO GROUND FORCE NUMBER IS TO BE INCREASED TO 791,000 OR 798,000 WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO COMMON CEILING OF 700,000? IF COMMON CEILING REMAINS AT 700,000 ACTUAL CUTS IN MANPOWER WILL BE GREATER THAN PRESENTLY AGREED. THIS IS JUST ONE EXAMPLE. THE POINT IS THAT THE DATA ARE MORE THAN SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR THE CONDUCT OF ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS. CHANGES IN THE DATA WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT AND DIRECT IMPACT ON ACTUAL RESULTS.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0960

INFO SECDEF PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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3. MCLAREN NOTED THAT THIS RAISES THE ADDITIONAL PROBLEM OF DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES AND THE GENERAL TREATMENT OF DATA. UK UNDERSTANDS US MBFR DEL VIENNA IS PREPARING PAPER ON POSSIBLE OPTIONS FOR DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES. UK IS MOST INTERESTED IN THIS EFFORT BUT FEELS THAT PROBLEM SHOULD BE BROADENED TO INCLUDE OTHER OPTIONS THAN JUST DIFFERENT WAYS TO DEFINE GROUND FORCES. FOR EXAMPLE, IT MAY BE DESIRABLE TO INCLUDE AIR FORCE MANPOWER IN THE DATA (RECOGNIZING THE PROBLEM ON THE INCLUSION OF AIRCRAFT) AND THEN TO MODIFY THE COMMON CEILING PROPOSAL. OR, IN THE END, IT MAY WORK OUT BEST JUST TO SEPARATE AIR AND GROUND FORCES BY COLOR OF UNIFORM.

4. MCLAREN SAID THAT ONLY WAY TO MEET THE JUNE 18 DEAD-SECRET

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LINE WOULD BE TO START A NATO STUDY ON DATA SOONEST. (COMMENT: THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE IN ACCORD WITH USDEL MBFR SUGGESTION PARA 3, REF. D.) UK WOULD BE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A STUDY.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: FCO OFFICIALS ARE TAKING SOFTER LINE THAN UK REPRESENTATIVES IN BRUSSELS. THEY VOLUNTEERED THAT UK WILL NOT INSIST ON INTELLIGENCE EXPERTS CONFERENCE. WE WILL PRESS THEM ON THIS POINT.

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